



FREEDOM WATCH



Aug. 15, 2002

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Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from
CNN.com)

Missing girls: police search woods

SOHAM, England — Police hunting two missing girls are examining two areas of “disturbed earth” in a wooded area 10 miles from where they disappeared. Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells were last seen in their hometown Soham in Cambridgeshire, eastern England on Aug. 4. The jogger, who told police on Tuesday he had seen the disturbed earth earlier in the day, had also previously told police that he had heard the sound of teenagers screaming in the area on Aug. 4.

Kurds offer territory for Iraq attack

WASHINGTON — A prominent Iraqi Kurdish opposition leader said Tuesday U.S. military forces would be “welcomed” at areas in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq to stage attacks against Saddam Hussein’s regime. Jalal Talabani,

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Spc. Michael Charles Thompson, a transportation specialist, and his daughter Spc. Janieko Nance, an administration clerk, are both assigned to the 769th (Reserve) HSC Engineer Battalion in Baton Rouge.

Soldiers take 'family outing' to higher level

Story & photo by Spc.
Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
*28th Public Affairs
Detachment*

Daughters regularly accompany their fathers to the park, where they might communicate about life while jogging, or tag along during an impromptu shopping trip

at the local grocery store, where they can discuss the prom or graduation.

But daughters don’t frequently travel with their fathers to the front lines of a battle ... unless they’re part of the Thompson family.

“It’s an exciting time for me,” said Spc. Michael Charles Th-

ompson, a transportation specialist with the 769th (Reserve) Headquarters Support Company Engineer Battalion in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. “I get to hang out with my daughter during this terrible period of history.”

“My father and I had a very basic rela-

tionship before we got here,” said Janieko Nance, administration clerk specialist, also with the 769th. “But now we are much closer and we talk all the time about stuff at home.”

This unique situation bloomed when Nance, 25, decided to

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Author seeks to preserve letters from Afghanistan

By Pfc. Holly Beth Mann
Army News Service

FORTHOOD, Texas — One author is striving to preserve letters from every war in the nation’s history, and he just told the Fort Hood community he is seeking help to preserve recent corre-

spondence from Afghanistan.

Andrew Carroll, editor of “War Letters,” visited Fort Hood Aug. 3 for a free book signing, and hundreds of military personnel, veterans and civilians flocked to express gratitude to Carroll for telling their stories and

paying tribute to those who served.

In 1998, Carroll founded the Legacy Project, a national, all-volunteer organization dedicated to encouraging Americans to seek out and preserve wartime correspondence, and since then he’s read about

60,000 to 70,000 letters.

“When you read a series of letters by a 19-year-old kid, who’s writing to his mom, telling her not to worry while he’s in the thick of battle,

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transfer to the 769th from her previous unit, which had just returned from another deployment in Egypt. Her father, who was 25 years removed from his last military mission, decided to re-enter the service for retirement reasons. He has nine years under his belt.

But neither thought they would join forces to battle terrorism in Afghanistan, until

late May when they received word the unit was headed to the hot zone.

"We had time to sit down and talk about the deployment," Thompson said. "But she was trained by the best military in the world, so I would trust her with my life if it came down to it."

"(My father) just being here makes me feel safe and protected," Nance said.

Even in a hostile environ-

ment, Nance and Thompson still manage to spend "quality" time together. They eat breakfast and dinner, chat after hours reminiscing of previous family outings, and they speak with their matriarch, Linda.

"(My wife) was very understanding and supportive of us coming here," Thompson said. "She has been that way for a long time now."

"It's weird talking to my mom on the phone and my dad

is sitting a few feet away," Nance said.

The family surely has a lot to talk about these days because Nance is to be married in November. It was to be a surprise for her father, but the excitement got the best of her.

"We will discuss it," Thompson said.

Probably during one of those regular shopping trips to the neighborhood Post Exchange.

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and you see what a whimsical, funny character he is because you're reading his intimate letters - he really comes to life. Then you see the telegram from the War Department saying private so-and-so was killed. It's devastating."

Carroll ardently urged soldiers to seek out letters, whether they're found in basements, attics, scrapbooks or old trunks, and to send them to him at the Legacy Project.

"We will never publish anything without permission," explained Carroll. "The contributors can edit anything. They can take their names out. They can take out locations, and they have full control over the material."

Carroll is seeking any e-mails or photocopies of printed letters sent from service members or from family members regarding Afghanistan or the war on terrorism.

"We are urgently, very intensely looking for these e-mails. So, anyone who knows of these, if they've written them or received them, if they have buddies who may have written some, we'd love to see them."

All of the proceeds from War Letters sales are donated to nonprofit organizations and veterans groups, said Carroll.

Carroll, a 32-year-old native of Washington, D.C., was first inspired by a documentary called "The Civil War," produced by Ken Burns. He decided to compile the book "Letters of a Nation." After talking to veterans and hearing their remarkable stories, Carroll compiled and edited another book, "War Letters, Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars," which featured 200 previously unpublished letters from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, and Bosnia.

"The idea of the book was born out of somewhat of a tragedy," said Carroll. "(My family) had an electrical fire in our house right before Christmas in 1989. An outlet exploded and sparks went everywhere. Everything got wiped out - just burned to the ground."

Carroll was in college at the time and went home to visit his family for Christmas only to discover that every material possession his family owned was destroyed.

"Nobody was hurt, which was the most important thing," recalled Carroll. "What bothered me most was that all of my letters were gone because they were irreplaceable."

What started out as a mere effort to preserve wartime docu-

ments, ended up as a huge project aimed at paying tribute to veterans and military personnel, and to broaden the world's understanding of every aspect of military life.

"The book has made me put things in context. It gave me a greater appreciation of what people have gone through for this country."

— **Andrew Carroll, War Letters author**

"I want to give people a glimpse of military life and what war is like, through those who were there; not interpretations, not filtered, this is what they wrote - uncensored," said Carroll.

He added, "It really humanizes the people who go off to war. I wanted this book to bring these people to life and to remind people who read this book that it's not statistics who go off and fight."

Michelle Rodriguez, a vendor at the Clear Creek Post Exchange, said after reading War Letters, she believes it offers people insight into how soldiers really felt during wartime.

"I think it would be a good book to have in a history class

because it would help the students better understand what the soldiers went through," said Rodriguez.

"It's not Hollywood's portrayal. It's their actual feelings, thoughts and emotions. You don't always stop to think about how they deal with every day things, but when they put it down and send it to their loved ones, it becomes real."

The book offers unparalleled insight into the muddled lives of ordinary service members coping with wartime calamity. It's a tribute to the soldiers, marines, airmen, sailors and family members afflicted by combat's wrath, according to the War Letters Web site.

"The book has made me put things in context," said Carroll. "It gave me a greater appreciation of what people have gone through for this country."

He added, "If you're going off to a hostile area, it doesn't really matter what the historical importance is, you're still dealing with the fact that you might not come home alive."

For more information, visit www.warletters.com, or send letters to Carroll at: The Legacy Project, PO Box 53250, Washington, D.C. 20009.

(Editor's note: Pfc. Holly Beth Mann is a staff writer for the Fort Hood Sentinel newspaper.)

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HIND SIGHT

1872

The first ballot voting in England is conducted.

1914

The Panama Canal opens to traffic.

1935

American comedian and "cowboy philosopher" Will Rogers dies in an airplane accident, along with American aviation pioneer Wiley Post.

1944

American, British and French forces land on the southern coast of France, between Toulon and Cannes, in Operation Dragoon. Women spies rendered valuable service to the OSS in the days following the invasion of Southern France.

1945

Gasoline and fuel oil rationing ends in the United States.

founder and secretary-general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, told CNN's Wolf Blitzer that after week-end meetings with top Bush administration officials, he and other Iraqi opposition leaders are convinced the United States is now serious about ousting Hussein.

Baby snatched at Texas Wal-Mart

ABILENE, Texas — A month-old girl was grabbed out of her mother's van at a Wal-Mart store in Abilene, Texas, on Tuesday by a woman who then fled the scene in a car. Her mother had just placed the baby and her two other children, ages 6 and 2, in the van and had gone to return the shopping cart, according to police. As she started to return a moment later, she saw a woman taking her baby out of the van and putting her in another vehicle. The mother tried to stop the vehicle from getting away and was dragged across the parking lot and slightly injured. Another bystander who tried to stop the car may have broken the passenger side window.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Friday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 84F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 78F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 102F L: 79F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 104F L: 77F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 95F L: 73F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 95F L: 73F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Clear</i> H: 96F L: 64F	<i>Clear</i> H: 100F L: 66F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

Newton sentenced to 30 months in prison

DALLAS — Former Dallas Cowboys offensive lineman Nate Newton was sentenced to 30 months in prison Wednesday on a federal drug trafficking charge.

Newton, who pleaded guilty in April as part of a plea agreement, could have faced up to 20 years and a \$1 million fine.

During the sentencing, Newton took the stand and expressed remorse for his role in the crime.

"I know I've done wrong and I know there's a price to be paid," said Newton, wearing a large black-and-gray checkered sport coat and black slacks. "I'm willing to do whatever it takes to get back into the community."

He refused to comment following the sentencing.

Newton, 40, has served more than eight months in a detention center in the Dallas suburb of Seagoville since his Dec. 12 arrest. He was released Wednesday but must report to prison Oct. 8.

Where he'll serve his sentence hasn't been determined.

Newton also must serve three years of supervised release. He must pay a \$25,000 fine, serve 250 hours of community service and undergo mandatory drug testing when his sentence is over.

Former Cowboys Deion Sanders and Kevin Mathis were character witnesses during Wednesday's sentencing.

"Nate Newton is a family man, a friend and a father," Sanders said on the stand. "You never had to ask Nate twice to do something for you."

Once the sentencing was completed, Sanders implied that Newton had financial problems after retiring from football that led him into drug trafficking.

"Nate made a short-term decision that had long-term ramifications," Sanders said. "He's exhausted himself financially. The game has a funny way of chewing you up and spitting you out."

As Newton walked out of the downtown Dallas federal building, he heartily greeted his friends and briskly snatched off his coat.

He drove off in a gray, late-model Lexus sport utility vehicle.

Authorities arrested Newton in Ellis County after they found \$10,000 in his red pickup as well as 175 pounds of marijuana in the trunk of an accompanying Monte Carlo driven by Charles Deaundra Howard, 25, of Garland.

The marijuana was worth an estimated \$700,000. Howard and another suspect, Billy Crenshaw, have pleaded guilty.

Co-defendant Bruce Freeman-Canady, 30, of Jacksonville, Fla., also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute marijuana.

At time of his arrest, Newton was free on bail from a Louisiana drug bust. He had been arrested Nov. 4, accused of driving a van loaded with 213 pounds of marijuana.

Newton's attorneys have said the Louisiana case is pending. (Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	73-44	.624	-
Boston	68-49	.581	5
Baltimore	56-60	.483	16.5
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	71-49	.592	-
Chicago (AL)	58-63	.479	13.5
Cleveland	53-65	.449	17
American League West			GB
Seattle	73-46	.613	-
Anaheim	71-48	.597	2
Oakland	70-51	.579	4
National League East			GB
Atlanta	78-41	.655	-
Montreal	59-60	.496	19
N.Y. Mets	58-61	.487	20
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	65-52	.556	-
Houston	63-56	.529	3
Cincinnati	61-57	.517	4.5
National League West			GB
Arizona	75-45	.625	-
Los Angeles	67-53	.558	8
San Francisco	66-53	.555	8.5

Wednesday's scores

Cleveland 6-4 Tampa Bay
 Houston 4-3 Chicago Cubs
 N.Y. Yankees 2-2 Kansas City, Btm 13th
 Los Angeles 5-2 Montreal
 Minnesota 5-5 Baltimore, Top 13th
 Philadelphia 4-1 Milwaukee
 Texas 11-6 Chicago W. Sox
 St. Louis 7-3 Pittsburgh
 Anaheim 5-4 Detroit, Btm 6th
 Florida 1-0 Colorado
 Oakland 4-2 Toronto
 Boston 11-3 Seattle, Top 7th
 Arizona 7-2 Cincinnati
 San Diego 6-2 N.Y. Mets
 Atlanta 1-0 San Francisco

Wild Card Races

<u>NL</u>	<u>AL</u>
1. Los Angeles .558	1. Anaheim .597
2. San Francisco .555	2. Boston .581
3. Houston .529	3. Oakland .579
4. Cincinnati .517	4. Baltimore .483
5. Montreal .496	5. Chicago .479